



What is claimed is:

1. a mechanical user interface (MUI) for a wireless communications device comprising:
a communications keypad coupled to the steering wheel of a motor vehicle
a method inherent in physical design which enables operation by touch rather than sight
a visual operational display
2. the invention in accordance with claim 1 further comprising:
a remote and/or direct communications link to a host cell-phone
a remote and/or direct communications link to a voice/speaker interface or headset
3. the invention in accordance with claim 1 further comprising:
a communications keypad coupled to a steering wheel
a remote and/or direct communications link to a host cell-phone
a remote and/or direct communications link to a voice/speaker interface or headset
4. the invention in accordance with claim 1 further comprising:
a remote and/or direct communications link to a cell phone
5. the invention in accordance with claim 1 further comprising:
wireless communication connectivity
6. the invention in accordance with claim 1 further comprising:
a remote and/or direct communications link to the internet
7. the invention in accordance with claim 1 further comprising:
operational keys placed so as to be positioned on the backside of the steering wheel
relative to the vehicle operator
8. the invention in accordance with claim 1 further comprising:
operational keys placed so as to be positioned at the fingertips of the vehicle operator.
9. the invention in accordance with claim 1 further comprising:
raised lettering on keys
10. the invention in accordance with claim 1 further comprising:
a rotational visual operational-display capable of being read by the operator independently of
the verticle or horizontal positioning of the MUI control facia.
11. the invention in accordance with claim 1 further comprising:
a rotating visual operational-display capable of being rotated to maintain verticality relative
to the operator independent of the plain maintained by the MUI control facia.

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12. the invention in accordance with claim 1 further comprising:
a speakerphone
13. the invention in accordance with claim 1 further comprising:
a wireless headset
14. the invention in accordance with claim 1 further comprising:
wireless connectivity
15. the invention in accordance with claim 1 further comprising:
internet access
16. the invention in accordance with claim 1 further comprising:
internet access
a rotating visual operational-display
wireless two-way connectivity
a wireless headset
a speakerphone
17. A method for operation of a mechanical user interface (MUI) for a wireless communications device coupled to the steering wheel of a motor vehicle comprising:

placement of at least one hand on steering wheel *in order* that a user may initiate or otherwise transact wireless communication through the act of depression of keys on keypad.

keypad operation through the use of tactile operational cues on facia and housing inherent to design rather than visual cues.

tactile operational cues on facia and housing designed for method of operation not requiring visual cues for operation.
18. The invention in accordance with claim 17 further comprising:
tactile operational cues not requiring visual cues for operation including,
raised lettering on keys
19. The invention in accordance with claim 17 further comprising:
raised lettering on housing
20. The invention in accordance with claim 17 further comprising:
tactile operational cues not requiring visual cues for operation including,
key placement positioned along the backside of steering wheel.

21. The invention in accordance with claim 17 further comprising:
tactile operational cues not requiring visual cues for operation including,
shape and patterning of key arrangement
22. The invention in accordance with claim 17 further comprising:
tactile operational cues not requiring visual cues for operation including,
shape of keys
23. The invention in accordance with claim 17 further comprising:
tactile operational cues not requiring visual cues for operation including,
angle of keys
24. The invention in accordance with claim 17 further comprising:
tactile operational cues not requiring visual cues for operation including,
finger grooves and bumps for orientation of hand along facia
25. The invention in accordance with claim 17 further comprising:
tactile operational cues not requiring visual cues for operation including,
finger grooves and bumps for orientation of hand along housing
26. The invention in accordance with claim 17 further comprising:
operational keys placed so as to be possitioned at the fingertips of the vehicle operator.
27. The invention in accordance with claim 17 further comprising:
tactile operational cues not requiring visual cues for operation including,
operational keys placed so as to be possitioned on the backside of the steering wheel
relative to the vehicle operator
28. The invention in accordance with claim 17 further comprising:
tactile operational cues not requiring visual cues for operation including,
raised lettering on keys
patterning of key placement
shape of keys
angle of keys
finger grooves and bumps for orientation of user's hand along facia
finger grooves and bumps for orientation of user's hand along housing
operational keys placed so as to be possitioned on the backside of the steering wheel
operational keys placed so as to be possitioned at the fingertips of the vehicle operator.

29. A mechanical user interface (MUI) for a wireless communications device comprising:

a communications keypad coupled to the steering wheel of a motor vehicle

a method of operation involving placement of at least one hand on steering wheel *in order* that a user may initiate or otherwise transact wireless communication through the act of depression of keys on keypad.

keypad operation through the use of tactile operational cues on facia and housing inherent to design.

tactile operational cues on facia and housing designed for method of operation not requiring visual cues for operation.

key placement positioned on back or underside of steering wheel.

30. The invention in accordance with claim 29 further comprising:
raised lettering on housing

31. The invention in accordance with claim 29 further comprising:
key placement positioned along other than front of steering wheel.

32. The invention in accordance with claim 29 further comprising:
tactile operational cues not requiring visual cues for operation including,
shape and patterning of key arrangement

33. The invention in accordance with claim 29 further comprising:
tactile operational cues not requiring visual cues for operation including,
shape of keys

34. The invention in accordance with claim 29 further comprising:
tactile operational cues not requiring visual cues for operation including,
angle of keys

35. The invention in accordance with claim 29 further comprising:
finger grooves and bumps for orientation of hand along facia

36. The invention in accordance with claim 29 further comprising:
finger grooves and bumps for orientation of hand along housing

37 The invention in accordance with claim 29 further comprising:
operational keys placed so as to be positioned on the backside of the steering wheel
relative to the vehicle operator

38. The invention in accordance with claim 29 further comprising:
- tactile operational cues not requiring visual cues for operation including,
 - raised lettering on keys
 - patterning of key placement
 - shape of keys
 - angle of keys
 - finger grooves and bumps for orientation of user's hand along facia
 - finger grooves and bumps for orientation of user's hand along housing
 - operational keys placed so as to be positioned on the backside of the steering wheel
 - operational keys placed so as to be positioned at the fingertips of the vehicle operator.